THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The award of the Arbitrator has not been implemented by the State Farms Corporation of India as it is not considered practicable to implement it in its present form.

However the management of State Farms Corporation of India is making all possible efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement with the concerned labour unions.

Agitation by Employees of Durgapur Steel Plant

1651. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Durgapur Steel Plant, the Indian Iron and Steel Company and those who are working in their Calcutta Offices are agitating in support of their demands;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) A sit-in-demonstration (Dharna) was staged on 23-7-86 by some of the employees of India Iron & Steel Company (IISCO), Burnpur Durgapur Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur at these plants and at their Calcutta offices.

The demands made by these employees and the latest position thereof are given in the Annexure.

[*See* Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 94].

Settlement of Crop Insurance Claims in Saurashtra, Gujarat

1652. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers of Saurashtra region of Gujarat are facing difficulty in getting their claims under crop insurance scheme ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers of Amreli District had recently resorted to agitation for settlement of their claims under the crop insurance scheme and yet the claims remain unsettled ;

(c) the details of the paid and unpaid claims so far under crop insurance scheme in Saurashtra region ;

(d) the reasons for the delay in settlement of the claims and for the pending claims ; and

(e) whether the delay in prompt settlement of claims would adversely effect prospects of crop-insurance business, if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (d) The claims amounting to Rs. 65.64 crore were intimated to the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) with respect to the seven districts of Saurashtra region in Gujarat for Kaharif 1985 season. On scrutiny, claims of the order of Rs. 20 crores were found to be inadmissible. Out of the balance Rs. 45.64 crore claims amounting to Rs. 42.51 crore have since been paid leaving a balance of Rs. 3.13 crore which will be paid shortly. As reported by Government of Gujarat in Amreli district there was agitation due to delay in settlement of claims. However, the admissible

claims in respect of Amreli district have since been paid.

(c) Action has since been initiated to have adequate budget provision for the scheme so as to ensure prompt payment of claims in future.

Production and Import of Pulses

1653. SHRI J. P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the result of taking various steps to increase the production of pulses in the country during the year 1985-86 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed the import of pulses under OGL to check the rise in prices of pulses and to overcome the imbalance in supply and demand of pulses ;

(c) if so, the total quantity of pulses imported under OGL during the last three years, alongwith particulars of importers : and

(d) what efforts are proposed to be made to increase the production of pulses and checking the rise in prices of pulses in the open market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) All-India production of pulses is anticipated at around 12.5 million tonnes during 1985-86 as compared to 12-12 million tonnes during 1984-1985, despite adverse weather conditions faced in a number of States during Kharif 1985.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The quantities of pulses imported during 1982-83 and 1983-84 amounted to 1.02 lakh tonnes and 2.28 lakh tonnes respectively. The quantity for which contracts were registered for import during 1984-85 was of the order of 3.14 lakh tonnes. Pulses can be imported by all persons under the Open General Licence subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions laid down under the import policy.

(d) To increase the production of pulses, following strategy is adopted in the Seventh Plan :—

(i) Introduction of pulses crops in irrigated farming system, such as double & multiple cropping ;

(ii) Bringing additional area under :—

1. Short duration varieties of urd, moong, etc. in rice fallows utilising the residual moisture in rabi season :

2. In summer season with irrigation after oilseeds, sugarcane, potato and wheat ; and

3. In rabi under lentil ;

(iii) Inter-cropping of arhar in soyabean, bajra, cotton, sugarcane and groundnut both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions ;

(iv) Multiplication and use of improved pulses seeds ; adoption of plant protection measures ; use of phosphatic fertilisers and rhizobium culture ; and

(v) Improved post harvest technology public policies including pricing and marketing of pulses.

From 1986-87, the Government of India have sanctioned an area and production oriented programme, viz. a Centrally Sponsored National pulses Development Project.

Construction of an Annexe Building At Victoria Memorial, Calcutta

1654. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be please to state :